

after their many years of constructive work ought to be interesting reading.

The definite injury that even the preliminary report of this "survey" caused was reflected in the difficulties connected with raising the budget of the last Community Chest drive. The complete report will further injure the development of an otherwise praiseworthy institution calculated to serve well, provided it stays out of the field of the *administration* of its funds, either by conducting services itself or utilizing arbitrary and dictatorial policies over the hospitals, organizations, and persons whose function is to serve.

The thousand copies of this "survey" would serve best by being collected and burned.

### THE PHYSICIAN'S SOCIAL CONFERENCES

Some mighty interesting and important things about which the world so far has heard little are being done by a growing number of California physicians. The movement has not been named, but may be appropriately designated physicians' social conferences. They are being held by both general practitioners or family physicians and by those who limit their work to children.

The principle is the same in all, but varies in details as between individual physicians. One day or part of a day in each month, more or less, is set aside for a certain group of the physician's patients—those under one year of age, those between one and three, four or five years of age, for example. Whatever the grouping, the group is invited to visit the office for a conference. These conferences are kept largely upon a social plane, but naturally the physician sees and records much of the effectiveness of his health advice and treatment. Naturally younger children are accompanied by older members of the family. No fees are charged for these conferences, and those who wish further specific medical service are given appointments which they keep upon the basis of professional service.

There are opportunities for splendid work by this custom, provided that the invitations are strictly limited to the physician's legitimate clientele. This movement after all is only a development of a commendable practice widely current in many places whereby the physician caring for young children has them report to his office at stated intervals for observation and treatment when necessary. Both movements are calculated to increase the value of medical service and insure sound health service. Both are praiseworthy, provided only that the physician limits his service to his own clients.

### A PATHETIC SPECTACLE

At the recent local election, the people of Whittier, California, repudiated the terms of an agreement by which Colonel Simon J. Murphy built and gave to the community the Murphy Memorial Hospital, a well-built, well-equipped 100-bed hospital costing nearly \$400,000.

During election day, Colonel Murphy, who is in exceedingly poor health, drove through the city with

banners on his car, asking the people to vote "No" on the local initiative, which was designed to make a "scrap of paper" out of a written agreement and to flaunt the wishes of a public benefactor. The osteopaths, chiropractors, eddyites, and other groups one would expect to see co-operating in any attack upon scientific medicine and adequate education as a qualification of its practitioners, succeeded in carrying their initiative.

The issue was clear-cut. The people were informed that, if such action was taken and sustained, the Murphy Memorial Hospital would lose all standing as a hospital by the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Hospital Association. Both medical and nursing organizations must then refuse to serve in it, and it becomes what the majority of voters of Whittier evidently want it to be—a place for cultists to treat their patients. There may be a few physicians, not members of this organization, who will connubiate with the cultists in their fine new hospital. They apparently are of the kind the majority of the voters want, but they are not the kind that can get into any really worthwhile hospital. It will be equally difficult to secure a staff of nurses who so far forget their moral code as to serve in such a discredited place. They will not, of course, be permitted to operate an accredited school of nursing. This means, in addition to other failures, that students who might be induced to train in the hospital could not secure their properly much-coveted R. N. from the State Board of Health.

The only thing left for the educated physicians, nurses, and that element of the public who still believe in scientific medicine, and medical agencies, to do is, to build their own hospital, or go to the nearby city of Los Angeles for hospital service.

If the action of the Whittier electorate is sustained, it might be well for people who hold any municipal bonds, or who are contemplating the purchase of municipal bonds, to consider the possibility carefully. Because if Whittier, or any other municipality, can by a local initiative repudiate one financial agreement, it can repudiate another.

The most important lesson of all is the one that private benefactors will, no doubt, get from the Whittier debacle. It is safe to predict that within a short time the Murphy Memorial Hospital will remind one of the buildings sometimes seen in the outskirts of a deflated boom town. Its service to the sick will be in harmony with the appearance.

Poor Whittier!

### "PHYSICAL EDUCATION" AND "SCHOOL HYGIENE"

A great deal of space is being taken in various school magazines published by official school bodies and supported by the tax money as to whether the "physical education" department or the "school hygiene" department or the "school health" department or all three should have charge of the practice of medicine among school children. It is rare in official school publications to see even a mention of the physician as a health worker and it is equally rare